

2009-10 Bright Futures Updates Questions and Answers

The 2009 Florida Legislative Session resulted in several changes to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program effective July 1, 2009, for the 2009-10 academic year. Additional information regarding the changes summarized below, as well as other Bright Futures information, will be available July 1, 2009, on the Bright Futures Web site at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf.

1. What are the Bright Futures award amounts for the 2009-10 academic year?

- Bright Futures recipients will receive a fixed cost per credit hour award based on their
 - **Award Level**
 - Florida Academic Scholar (FAS), Florida Medallion Scholar (FMS), or Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar (GSV)],
 - **Institution Type**
 - 4-year, 2-year, or Vocational/Technical, and
 - **Credit Type**
 - Semester, quarter, or clock hour
- The public school will not be paying tuition and fees, rather, they will be paying students the established cost per credit hour award.
- The private school will now pay the established cost per credit hour award, not a full-time, three-quarter-time, or half-time amount.
- See the 2009-10 award amounts on the Bright Futures Web site at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/newsrenew.htm.

2. Do Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) still receive a college-related expense allowance?

- No. As of the 2009-10 academic year, the FAS college-related expense allowance is no longer available.

3. Do Academic Top Scholars (ATS) still receive an annual award?

- Yes. As of the 2009-10 academic year, ATS recipients will now receive a per credit hour award.
- See the 2009-10 award amounts on the Bright Futures Web site at www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/newsrenew.htm.



4. Will Bright Futures recipients have to repay the cost for courses dropped or withdrawn?

- Yes. Students will be required to repay the cost of any Bright Futures funded course dropped or withdrawn (after the end of the drop/add period) unless an exception is granted by the financial aid office at their home postsecondary institution.

- Repayment for the cost of dropped or withdrawn courses is required to renew a Bright Futures award at the end of the spring term for a subsequent academic year.

5. Did the renewal criteria change for Bright Future recipients?

- Yes. As of the 2009-10 academic year, Bright Futures recipients are required to meet new minimum credit hour requirements to renew their award each year. The Florida Legislature amended Section 1009.532 (1)(a), Florida Statutes, to require **full-time** students to earn at least 24 semester hours, or the equivalent in quarter or clock hours, to renew their award (prorated for part-time students).
- The chart below outlines the new credit hour requirement for students funded in 2009-10 and thereafter.

Bright Futures Credit Hour Renewal Requirements

Institution Term Type	Credit Hour Type	Student Funded (per term)	Required Earned Hours (per term)
Semester	Semester Hour	12+ Hours (Full-Time)	12
		9-11 Hours (Three-Quarter Time)	9
		6-8 Hours (Half-Time)	6
	Clock Hour	360+ Hours (Full-Time)	360
		270-359 Hours (Three-Quarter Time)	270
		180-269 Hours (Half-Time)	180
Quarter	Quarter Hour	12+ Hours (Full-Time)	12
		9-11 Hours (Three-Quarter Time)	9
		6-8 Hours (Half-Time)	6
	Clock Hour	240+ Hours (Full-Time)	240
		180-239 Hours (Three-Quarter Time)	180
		120-179 Hours (Half-Time)	120
Quinmester	Clock Hour	180+ Hours (Full-Time)	180
		135-179 Hours (Three-Quarter Time)	135
		90-134 Hours (Half-Time)	90

- Students are required to meet the minimum credit hour requirement for the academic year based on the terms funded.
 - For example, a student funded **full-time** (12+ hours) for **two terms** in a **semester hour** institution must earn a minimum of **24** semester hours and the required GPA to be eligible for renewal.
- Students with different enrollments (full-time, three-quarter time, or half-time) during an academic year must earn the required hours that correspond to their enrollment for each term.
 - For example, a student enrolled at a semester hour institution at **15** hours (full-time) for the fall term and **8** hours (half-time) for the spring term is required to earn a minimum total of **18** semester hours (12 hours for the fall term + 6 hours for the spring term) and the required GPA to be eligible for renewal.
 - A student funded for **two terms** at a **quarter hour** institution for 15 hours in the first term and 12 hours in the second term must earn a minimum total of **24** credit hours (12 hours for the first term + 12 hours for the second term) and the required GPA to be eligible for renewal.
 - A student funded for **240 clock hours** for only **one term** at a **quinmester** institution must earn **180 clock hours** and the required GPA to be eligible for renewal.

6. Can students who lose their Bright Futures award for not meeting the minimum credit hours restore their award in a subsequent academic year?

- Yes. Bright Futures recipients who do not meet the new credit hour renewal requirements will have the opportunity to restore their award in a subsequent academic year.
- **This applies to students who were funded and did not meet the minimum credit hour renewal requirements at the end of the 2009-10 academic year and thereafter.**

7. Can Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) still renew as Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)?

- No. The Florida Legislature amended Section 1009.536(4), Florida Statutes, by removing the provision which allows GSV recipients to renew as Florida Medallion Scholars. GSV students may receive funding for up to 90 semester hours.